

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5012

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE: ELECTIONS TO BOARD

OF GOVERNORS

1. WHILE FULL SLATE OF REGIONALLY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES TO FILL ELEVEN VACANCIES ON NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS IS STILL IN FORMATIVE STAGE, MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ ARE CONTENDING FOR SINGLE SEAT REPRESENTING MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA (NOW HELD BY SAUDI ARABIA). IRAN ANNOUNCED IT CANDIDACY MONTHS AGO AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT PRESENT, IRAN ENJOYS SUPPORT OF MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF THIS GEOGRAPHIC GROUP. IRAQ'S ANNOUNCEMENT, ON OTHER HAND, WAS NOT MADE UNTIL MID-AUGUST AND CLAIMS ONLY SUPPORT OF ARAB LEAGUE (WHICH HAS NO RELEVANCE IN CONTEXT OF IAEA REGIONAL GROUPINGS).

2. FYI - IRANIAN AMBASSADOR NAMDAR INFORMS ME GOI HAS FIRM SUPPORT OF EIGHT OF 14 MEMBERS OF MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA GROUP: ISRAEL, INDIA, LEBANON, JORDAN, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, BURMA, TURKEY. FIVE MEMBERS OF GROUP HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO IRANIAN REQUEST FOR SUPPORT - KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA. EGYPT, THOUGH NO LONGER MEMBER OF GROUP, HAS ASSURED IRAN OF SUPPORT. IRANIAN EMBASSY FEELS THAT DESPITE MAJORITY GROUP SUPPORT FOR IRAN, IRAQ CANNOT BE CONVINCED

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TO WITHDRAW ITS CANDIDACY. END FYI

3. IRANIAN EMBASSY WILL SHORTLY SEND CIRCULAR NOTE STATING THAT IT HAS MAJORITY SUPPORT OF GROUP AND ASKING THAT ITS CANDIDACY FOR BOARD SEAT BE SUPPORTED BY ALL MEMBERS.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, PLUS FACT THAT IRAN HAS AN ACTIVE AND EXPANDING PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAM, MISSION BELIEVES IRAN TO BE THE CANDIDATE BETTER QUALIFIED FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD AND RECOMMENDS THAT IF MATTER REMAINS UNRESOLVED AND IS PUT TO TEST IN VOTE BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, THE US DELEGATION CAST ITS VOTE IN IRAN'S FAVOR.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS TO US DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AND VOTE FOR CANDIDACY OF IRAN FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS. PORTER

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